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Program for the Dedication of New Offices for the State of Maine Department of Labor

Maine Department of Labor

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MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR

State of Maine
Department of Labor

Dedication

Open House

Central Maine Commerce Center
45 Commerce Drive, Augusta, Maine

Friday, October 26, 2007

Mission Statement

The Maine Department of Labor promotes the safety and economic well being of all individuals and businesses in Maine.

Background on the Move

In an effort to reduce costs and improve efficiency, the Maine Department of Labor recently consolidated all administrative offices to the Central Maine Commerce Center, located off Civic Center Drive in Augusta. The following units are now housed under one roof:

- Labor Standards
- Unemployment
- Employment Services
- Center for Workforce Research and Information
- Rehabilitation Services
- Commissioner's Office

The move brought together staff who had previously worked in five different locations in the Augusta area and one location in Lewiston. In addition to improvements in customer service, the move will save the agency over $300,000 annually in lease costs.

Space / Move Planning Team

The Maine Department of Labor recognizes the hard work and dedication of the members of the space / move planning team. These individuals worked throughout the process to assess the space needs of each unit moving into the building and create a working environment that reduced unnecessary movement of people, maximized shared or common workspace, supported communication, and maximized capacity and floor space.

- Dennis Bailey
- Andy Drouin
- Kim Smith
- Dennis Corliss
- Bob Arbour
- Dave Poulin
- Leda Cunningham
- Paul Cote
- Brenda Drummond
- Bud Lewis
- Bob Kelley
- Chris Boudreau
- Dawn Mealey
- Judy Williams
- Leslie Manning
- Joan Cook
- Tony Peverada
- Pat Longway

Agenda

1:00 PM – 1:45 PM: Welcome Reception in Frances Perkins Room

1:50 PM – 2:00 PM: Flag raising outside by Commissioner Fortman
2:00 PM – 2:45 PM: Introductions and Remarks

- Laura Fortman, Commissioner of the Maine Department of Labor
- Jane Lincoln, Chief of Staff for Governor John E. Baldacci
- Chris Boudreau, MDOL Center for Workforce Research and Information
- Tomlin Coggeshall, Grandson of late Secretary of Labor, Frances Perkins
- Other guests

2:45 PM – 4:00 PM: Building tours, meet the staff, refreshments

Information on Conference Rooms

Conference rooms in the new Maine Department of Labor space were named after people who made a significant contribution improving the lives of working people. A complete biography of each individual is located outside the each conference room.

- Frances Perkins, former Secretary of Labor, author of many of the "New Deal" reforms.
- Marion Martin, former Commissioner of Maine Department of Labor.
- Charles Scontras, Maine labor historian and college professor.
- Sarah Wilson, Lewiston textile worker who led a strike for an eleven-hour work day.
- Cesar Chavez, leader of the United Farmworkers of America and advocate for migrant agricultural workers.
- Rose Schneiderman, union activist and campaigner for woman's sufferage.
- William Looney, former State Legislator and political reformer of child labor and election laws.

Artwork / Exhibits

A Time to Remember: Women in the Industries that Predominated in Maine, 150 Years after a Legendary Strike. Photographs by Guy Saldanha

"A Time to Remember" records the significant role of women in four industries that once defined Maine's working landscape, and places their experience within a national context. Presented on the 150th anniversary of a legendary New York City strike in which several hundred women protested conditions in these trades, the images recall many of the occupations in Maine's textile, apparel, shoe-making and cannery businesses. Documenting the final days of production in a number of historic companies, including Biddeford Textile (J. P. Stevens/Pepperell Mills), the Bates Company, Cascade Woolen, Hathaway Shirt, Franklin Shoe and Port Clyde Canning, each picture reveals a different job and unique skills. The images are a reflection of a time and place that we will never experience again, but which offer important lessons in the way women's work has evolved and how our communities developed. They also remind us that Maine has always been intricately connected to a wider economy.

Working in Maine, 2007. Photographs by Tabitha Nutting

In the summer of 2007, Tabitha Nutting traveled the state photographing Maine people at work. Nutting's work documents the face of Maine's workforce and the diversity of jobs in the economy. Nutting was a recent graduate of the Maine College of Art and was employed as an intern at the Maine Department of Labor when the photos were taken.

Paintings and Pastels from Members of the LINC Social Club

This exhibit is comprised of art and words from people who have been diagnosed with a mental illness. but each of them is more than a diagnosis and their creations, more than symptoms, speak for themselves--of joy, pain, bemusement, despair, hope, passion, curiosity--and awaken us to the range of human vision and responses. One never doubts the authenticity of the feelings in this work. The exhibition would present art and words as vehicles for the understanding and appreciation of both the uniqueness and commonality of human experience. Much of the art is direct from the heart, and often communicates with graphic eloquence, intensity , and immediacy, marked by candor and originality.

You're Invited...

The Maine Department of Labor is hosting a **grand opening** of new offices at the Central Maine Commerce Center in Augusta. Come join Maine Labor Commissioner Laura Fortman in celebrating this important milestone.

Friday, October 26, 2007, 1:00 - 4:00 P.M.

- Building tours
- Dedication of the MDOL Center for Workforce Research and Information
- Labor history exhibits
- Meet the Commissioner

Central Maine Commerce Center
45 Commerce Drive (located off Civic Center Drive) in Augusta

R.S.V.P. not necessary. For more information, or to request an accommodation, please contact Adam Fisher at (207)621-5092 or TTY: 1-800-794-1110.

MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF
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Directions

From the South: Take Exit 112 off I-95; Turn left off the ramp and take Civic Center Drive towards Belgrade 1.2 miles; Turn left at Commerce Drive/Central Maine Commerce Center; Maine Department of Labor entrance is on side of building facing Civic Center Drive.

From the North: Take Exit 112B off I- 95; Turn right off the ramp and take Civic Center Drive towards Belgrade 1.2 miles; Turn left at Commerce Drive/Central Maine Commerce Center; Maine Department of Labor entrance is on side of building facing Civic Center Drive.